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**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

In re:

HIGHLAND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, L.P.,¹

Reorganized Debtor.

)
) Chapter 11
)
) Case No. 19-34054-sgj11
)
)
)
)

**REORGANIZED DEBTOR'S MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER FURTHER
EXTENDING THE PERIOD WITHIN WHICH IT MAY REMOVE ACTIONS
PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1452 AND RULE 9027 OF THE
FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY PROCEDURE**

¹ The Reorganized Debtor's last four digits of its taxpayer identification number are (6725). The headquarters and service address for the above-captioned Reorganized Debtor is 300 Crescent Court, Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75201.

TO THE HONORABLE STACEY G. C. JERNIGAN, U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:

COMES NOW Highland Capital Management, L.P., the reorganized debtor (the “Reorganized Debtor”) in the above-captioned chapter 11 bankruptcy case (the “Case”), filing this *Motion for Entry of an Order Further Extending the Period Within Which It May Remove Actions Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452 and Rule 9027 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure* (the “Motion”) seeking an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, extending the deadline through December 13, 2021 (a 90-day extension), by which the Reorganized Debtor may remove actions pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1452, without prejudice to the Reorganized Debtor’s right to seek further extensions. In support of the Motion, the Reorganized Debtor respectfully represents as follows:

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The Court has jurisdiction to consider this Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue for this matter is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. The statutory predicates for the relief requested in this Motion are section 105(a) of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), Rules 9006(b) and 9027 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), and section 1452 of title 28 of the United States Code (the “Judicial Code”).

II. BACKGROUND

2. On October 16, 2019 (the “Petition Date”), the Reorganized Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code in the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, Case No. 19-12239 (CSS) (the “Delaware Court”). On December 4,

2019, the Delaware Court entered an order transferring venue of the Reorganized Debtor's Case to this Court [Docket No. 186].²

3. On February 22, 2021, the Court entered the *Order (i) Confirming the Fifth Amended Plan of Reorganization (as Modified) and (ii) Granting Related Relief* [Docket No. 1943] (the "Confirmation Order") with respect to the *Debtor's Fifth Amended Plan of Reorganization of Highland Capital Management, L.P.* [Docket No. 1808] (the "Plan").

4. The Plan went effective on August 11, 2021, (the "Effective Date") and, on that same date, the Reorganized Debtor filed the *Notice of Occurrence of Effective Date of Confirmed Fifth Amended Plan of Reorganization of Highland Capital Management, L.P.* [Docket No. 2700].

5. On January 13, 2020, the Reorganized Debtor filed its first motion to extend the removal period deadline [Docket No. 351] through and including July 14, 2020. On February 19, 2020, the Court entered an order approving the first motion extending the deadline [Docket No. 459]. On June 15, 2020, the Reorganized Debtor filed its second motion to extend the removal period deadline [Docket No. 747] through and including January 14, 2021. On July 9, 2020, the Court entered an order approving the second motion extending the deadline [Docket No. 816]. On December 16, 2020, the Reorganized Debtor filed its third motion to extend the removal period deadline [Docket No. 1583] through and including June 14, 2021. On January 12, 2021, the Court entered an order approving the third motion extending the deadline [Docket No. 1725]. On May 14, 2021, the Reorganized Debtor filed its fourth motion to extend the removal period deadline [Docket No. 2304]. On June 16, 2021, the Court entered an order approving the fourth motion extending the deadline through and including September 14, 2021

² All docket numbers refer to the docket maintained by this Court.

[Docket No. 2453] (the “Fourth Extension Order”). This deadline set by the Fourth Extension Order has not yet lapsed as of the filing of this Motion.

6. The Reorganized Debtor is a party to several civil lawsuits and proceedings other than before the Bankruptcy Court and may become aware of such further lawsuits and proceedings before the closure of this Case (collectively, the “Actions”).

7. In particular, as the Court is aware, James Dondero and entities owned and/ or controlled by him (collectively, the “Dondero Entities”) have filed a series of lawsuits during the pendency of this Case in forums other than the Bankruptcy Court. Three of those actions were filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas,³ and one was filed in Texas state court (*Dondero v. Alvarez & Marsal CRF Management, LLC and Farallon Capital Management, L.L.C.*, Cause No. DC-21-09534 (95th Judicial District Court of Dallas County, Texas)), a petition for removal of which has been recently filed with the Court. *See Notice of Removal* filed by Defendants (Docket No. 2696 in Case No. 19-34054 (SGJ)). Now that the Effective Date of the Plan has occurred, parties are required by the terms of Article IX.F of the Plan to first seek permission from this Court to file any actions against certain parties (the “Gatekeeper Provision”). While the Reorganized Debtor expects the Dondero Entities to comply with the terms of the Gatekeeper Provision, the Dondero Entities have failed to comply with the Court’s pre-Effective Date gatekeeper orders and have found certain parties in contempt in connection therewith. Extending the removal deadline under these circumstances is particularly

³ (i) *Charitable DAF Fund, L.P., and CLO Holdco, Ltd., v. Highland Capital Management, L.P., Highland HCF Advisor, Ltd., and Highland CLO Funding, Ltd.*, Case No. 21-cv-00842-B (N.D. Tex. April 12, 2021); (ii) *PCMG Trading Partners XXIII, L.P. v. Highland Capital Management, L.P.*, Case No. 21-cv-01169-N (N.D. Tex. May 21, 2021); and (iii) *Charitable DAF Fund, LP v. Highland Capital Management, L.P.*, Case No. 21-cv-01710-N (N.D. Tex. July 22, 2021).

important and appropriate to preserve the Reorganized Debtor's rights to remove to this Court litigation as appropriate.

III. RELIEF REQUESTED

8. By this Motion, the Reorganized Debtor seeks entry of an order pursuant to Rule 9006(b) of the Bankruptcy Rules further extending through December 13, 2021, the deadline by which the Reorganized Debtor may file notices of removal with respect to any proceedings that are eligible for removal under section 1452 of the Judicial Code, to the extent that the time period for filing any such notices of removal expires on September 14, 2021. The Reorganized Debtor requests that the proposed December 13, 2021, deadline to file removal actions apply to all matters specified in Bankruptcy Rules 9027(a)(2) and (3). The Reorganized Debtor further requests that the order approving this Motion be without prejudice to the right of the Reorganized Debtor to seek further extensions of the period in which it may remove civil actions pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9027.

IV. ARGUMENT AND AUTHORITIES

9. Section 1452 of the Judicial Code provides for the removal of pending civil claims with respect to which the district courts have jurisdiction under section 1334 of the Judicial Code. Section 1452 provides in pertinent part as follows:

- (a) A party may remove any claim or cause of action in a civil action other than a proceeding before the United States Tax Court or a civil action by a governmental unit to enforce such governmental unit's police or regulatory power, to the district court for the district where such civil action is pending, if such district court has jurisdiction of such claim or cause of action under section 1334 of this title.
- (b) The court to which such claim or cause of action is removed may remand such claim or cause of action on any equitable ground. An order entered under this

subsection remanding a claim or cause of action, or a decision to not remand, is not reviewable by appeal or otherwise

28 U.S.C. § 1452.

10. Bankruptcy Rule 9027 establishes the deadline for filing notices of removal of claims or causes of action. Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(2) provides in pertinent part as follows:

If the claim or cause of action in a civil action is pending when a case under the [Bankruptcy] Code is commenced, a notice of removal may be filed only within the longest of (A) 90 days after the order for relief in the case under the [Bankruptcy] Code, (B) 30 days after entry of an order terminating a stay, if the claim or cause of action in a civil action has been stayed under § 362 of the [Bankruptcy] Code, or (C) 30 days after a trustee qualifies in a chapter 11 reorganization case but not later than 180 days after the order for relief.

FED. R. BANKR. P. 9027(a)(2). With respect to post-petition actions, Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a)(3) provides that a notice of removal may be filed:

only within the shorter of (A) 30 days after receipt, through service or otherwise, of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim or cause of action sought to be removed or (B) 30 days after receipt of the summons if the initial pleading has been filed with the court but not served with the summons.

FED. R. BANKR. P. 9027(a)(3).

11. Finally, Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b)(1) provides that the Court can extend unexpired time periods, including the removal period in Bankruptcy Rule 9027, without notice, upon a showing of cause:

[W]hen an act is required or allowed to be done at or within a specified period by these rules or by a notice given thereunder or by order of court, the court for cause shown may at any time in its discretion . . . with or without motion or notice order the period enlarged if the request therefor is made before the expiration of the period originally prescribed or as extended by a previous order

FED. R. BANKR. P. 9006(b)(1).

12. It is well-settled that the Court is authorized, pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006, to enlarge the removal period provided under section 1452 and Bankruptcy Rule 9027. *See, e.g., Pacor, Inc. v. Higgins*, 743 F.2d 984, 996 n.17 (3d Cir. 1984), *overruled on other grounds*; *Things Remembered, Inc. v. Petrarca*, 516 U.S. 124, 134–35 (1995) (holding bankruptcy court’s power to grant extension of removal deadline pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b) is “clear”); *Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co., Inc.*, 251 B.R. 322, 325 (S.D. W.Va. 2000) (holding Bankruptcy Rule 9006 provides authority to enlarge time periods for removing actions under Bankruptcy Rule 9027); *In re Jandous Elec. Constr. Corp.*, 106 B.R. 48 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1989) (same); *In re World Fin. Servs. Ctr., Inc.*, 81 B.R. 33, 39 (Bankr. S.D. Cal. 1987) (same); *Raff v. Gordon*, 58 B.R. 988, 990 (E.D. Pa. 1986) (same). Courts in this District and elsewhere have regularly granted the relief requested herein in other chapter 11 cases. *See, e.g., In re Westmoreland Coal Co.*, Case No. 18-35672 (DRJ) (Bankr. S.D. Tex. Dec. 12, 2018); *In re Life Partners Holding, Inc.*, Case No. 15-40289-RFN [Docket No. 1810] (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Apr. 7, 2016); *In re Pilgrim’s Pride Corp.*, Case No. 08-45664-DML [Docket No. 964] (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Feb. 26, 2009); *In re Fort Worth Osteopathic Hosp., Inc.*, 406 B.R. 741, 747 n. 8 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2009) (noting that the time for removal under 9027(a)(2) is subject to enlargement under Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9006(b)); *In re CDX Gas, LLC*, Case No. 08-37922 (LZP) (Bankr. S.D. Tex. March 31, 2009) (extending the debtors’ removal deadline for 90 days); *In re Mirant Corp.*, Case No. 03-46590 (DML) (Bankr. N.D. Tex. Oct. 9, 2003) (extending the debtors’ removal deadline through confirmation of a plan of reorganization).

13. Notably, bankruptcy courts, including various courts in the Fifth Circuit, regularly approve post-confirmation extensions sought by the reorganized debtor or other plan

representative of the removal period, where there is cause. *See, e.g., In re Neiman Marcus Group Ltd LLC*, Case No. 20-32519 (DRJ) (Bankr. S.D. Tex. Oct. 22, 2020) (Docket Nos. 1976 & 2015 in Case No. 20-32519; liquidating trustee’s motion for broad extension of time to remove actions, filed after plan effective date but before lapse of previously extended deadline, approved by court); *In re SandRidge Energy, Inc.*, Case No. 16-32488 (DRJ) (Bankr. S.D. Tex. Dec. 5, 2016) (Docket Nos. 984 & 1032 in Case No. 16-32488; granting reorganized debtor’s motion for extension of removal period, filed after plan effectiveness and prior to expiration of previously extended deadline); *In re RCS Capital Holdings, LLC*, Case No. 16-10223 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. June 17, 2021) (Docket Nos. 1623 & 1626 in Case No. 16-10223) (granting reorganized debtor’s motion for extension of removal period, filed after plan effectiveness and prior to expiration of previously extended deadline); *In re Revstone Indus., LLC*, Case No. 12-13262 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Jan. 22, 2020) (Docket Nos. 2703 & 2708 in Case No. 12-13262; similar); *In re AMR Corp.*, 2013 Bankr. LEXIS 5785, at *113-*114 (Bankr. S.D. N.Y. Oct. 21, 2013) (confirming plan with provision extending removal period until one year after plan confirmation, subject to debtors’ rights to seek further extensions). *See also In re Ernst*, 45 B.R. 700, 703 (Bankr. D. Minn. 1985) (“The Court’s removal powers under 28 U.S.C. § 1452 and its injunctive powers under 11 U.S.C. § 105 are unaffected solely by confirmation of a plan of reorganization, and remain available upon proper application for as long as the Court has jurisdiction in the case.”)

14. The extension sought will afford the Reorganized Debtor, which is focused on administering and implementing the Plan and operating its post-confirmation business, additional time to determine whether to remove any Action and will ensure that valuable rights under section 1452 of the Judicial Code are not forfeited. Critically, the rights of other parties to the Actions

will not be prejudiced by the extension, because any party to an Action that is removed may seek to have it remanded to the state court pursuant to section 1452(b) of the Judicial Code. Moreover, as explained above, the requested extension is especially important in this Case in order to preserve the Reorganized Debtor's rights to remove to this Court litigation as appropriate, to facilitate the Plan's Gatekeeper Provision.

15. Given the circumstances described above, the Reorganized Debtor submits that there is cause to grant the relief requested herein.

V. NOTICE

16. Notice of this Motion will be provided to: (a) the Office of the United States Trustee; (b) the Office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas; (c) the Debtor's principal secured parties; (d) counsel to the Committee; and (e) parties requesting notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 2002.

VI. PRIOR REQUEST

17. This is the Reorganized Debtors' fifth request for an extension of the removal deadline.

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VII. PRAYER

WHEREFORE, the Reorganized Debtor respectfully requests that the Court enter an order substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, and for such other and further relief as may be appropriate.

Dated: August 19, 2021.

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EXHIBIT A

due deliberation, the Court has determined that good and sufficient cause has been shown for the relief requested in the Motion; it is therefore

ORDERED that the Motion is **GRANTED** as set forth herein; it is further

ORDERED that the time periods provided under Bankruptcy Rules 9027(a)(2) and (a)(3) within which the Reorganized Debtor may file notices of removal of any and all civil actions is extended to and includes December 13, 2021; it is further

ORDERED that this Order shall be without prejudice to the Reorganized Debtor's right to seek from the Court further extensions of the period within which the Reorganized Debtor may file notices of removal under Bankruptcy Rule 9027(a); and it is further

ORDERED that the Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the implementation of this Order.

END OF ORDER